

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action dated January 28, 2010 has been received and reviewed. Prior to the present communication, claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13, 15-21, 24-30 and 37 were pending in the present application. Each of claims 24, 26-28 and 30 has been amended herein and claim 21 has been cancelled. As such, claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13, 15-20, 24-30 and 37 remain pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present Application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13, 15-20 and 37.

Objections

Claims 24-30 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if written in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Prior to the present communication, each of claims 24, 26, 27, 28 and 30 was dependent directly on claim 21, which has been cancelled from the present application. Claims 24, 26, 27, 28 and 30 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of now cancelled claim 21. Claim 25 is dependent upon now independent claim 24 and, as such, is believed to be in condition for allowance based on the addition of the limitations of now cancelled claim 21 to objected to claim 24. Similarly, claim 29 is dependent upon now independent claim 28 and, as such, is believed to be in condition for allowance based on the addition of the limitations of now cancelled claim 21 to objected to claim 28. Each of

claims 24–30 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such favorable action is respectfully requested.

Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,466,239 to Ishikawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,870,088 to Washington et al. Claim 21 has been cancelled by way of the present communication, thus rendering the rejection thereof moot.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons stated above, claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13, 15-20, 24, 28, 30, and 37 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of the claims. If any issues remain that would prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned – 816-474-6550 or twilhelm@shb.com (such communication via email is herein expressly granted) – to resolve the same.

The fees for five independent claims and thirty-six total claims have been previously paid. Submitted herewith is the fee of \$440 for two additional independent claims in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(i). It is believed that no additional fee is due. However, if this belief is in error, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2112, referencing attorney docket number 306778.01/MFCP.139600.

Respectfully submitted,

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